

"Market House" (1773-4)
Market Square
Providence, Rhode Island

HABS NO. RI-74

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN AND HISTORICAL DATA
District of Rhode Island

Historic American Buildings Survey
Philip D. Creer, District Officer
14 College Street, Providence, R.I.

MARKET HOUSE
MARKET SQUARE
PROVIDENCE
PROVIDENCE COUNTY
RHODE ISLAND

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
42-

Present owner:

City of Providence

Architects:

Joseph Brown and Stephen Hopkins

Builder:

Unknown

Date of Erection:

1773-1774

Present Condition:

Being Restored

Number of Stories:

Basement and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Stories above (originally only 2 stories)

Materials of Construction:

Foundation of stone; exterior walls of brick; floors, wood construction; roof, wood trusses, boards, shingles. Gable roof with 4 small chimneys.

(Now being restored-using steel girders, steel trusses, slate roof.)

In December 27, 1797, St. John's Lodge #1, at its own expense, added the third story using studs with a brick veneer.

In 1773-4, lumber came from Johnston and Cumberland; bricks from Rehoboth.

Other Existing Records:

Built by a lottery started in 1771 - \$4500.00.
August, 1772, land filled in.
June 11, 1773, Corner Stone laid.
July , 1774, First story "raised".
August , 1774, Second story done.

(Continued on next page)

Other Existing Records (Continued):

Long windows on ground floor were built originally for stalls for farmers' wagons.
In 1799, a fire engine located on the first floor.
In 1865, the City Hall
In 1880, the Chamber of Commerce.
In 1916, Paint on bricks removed.
In 1938, wood trusses gave way and had to be removed.

References:

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Know Rhode Island (1938) by State of Rhode Island, Page-46 text.
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R. I. Historic Background (1936) by State of R.I., Page-49, text and picture.
Milan, Katherine A. (A.B.) (1927) The Story of the Old Market House, 1771-1927, pages-1 to 12.
Gleeson, A. C., Colonial Rhode Island (1926) Pages-73 text-112, picture-144 text-203, text-223 text.
Providence Bulletin (Date unknown) to end lease of Chamber of Commerce.
Providence Bulletin-October 21, 1938-being restored.
" " Dec. 22, 1938 " "
" Journal Dec. 23, 1938 " "
" Bulletin Dec. 29, 1938 " "
" " Dec. 30, 1938 " "
" " Jan. 1, 1939 " "
" " Jan. 10, 1939 " "
" Journal Feb. 20, 1939 " "
" Bulletin May 14, 1939 " "
" " April 11, 1941
" " May 9, 1941
" " June 15, 1941
" " Nov. 13, 1941
Seeing Providence (date unknown) by Providence Journal Co., Pages-22-23.
Old Providence (1918) by Merchants' National Bank, pages 14, 15, 16, picture and text.
Field, Edward, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. A history (1902) VOL III, Page-18 Plat showing Location.
Kimball, G. S., Providence in Colonial Times, (1912) Picture, frontispiece-building as of 1824.